

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9865

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AR

SUBJ: WRAP UP OF CGE TRADE MISSION VISIT TO US

1. CGE OFFICIALS ASSESS COMMERCIAL RESULTS OF TRADE MISSION AS ONLY FAIR BUT NOTE THEY EXPECTED THIS GIVEN DEPRESSED STATE OF ECONOMY IN US AND OVERVALUATION OF ARGENTINE PESO. THEY MAINTAIN BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY THAT THEY WENT TO US PRINCIPALLY TO RECONNOITER MARKETS AND TO "SELL" ARGENTINE IMAGE.

2. CGE STAFF MEMBERS WERE APPRECIATIVE OF EFFORTS BY WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND USDOC NEW YORK DISTRICT OFFICE TO GIVE THEM A SPECIAL WELCOME. CGE PRESIDENT BRONER CATEGORIZED HIS CONTACTS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON AS "USEFUL" AND "POSITIVE". (NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY BELIEVES NEITHER BRONER NOR HIS STAFF ARE FULLY AWARE HOW MUCH OUT OF THE ORDINARY WAS THEIR RECEPTION).

3. BRONER HAS STRESSED TWO THEMES IN RELATION TO HIS VISIT TO THE US SINCE HIS RETURN: COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON SHOES AND THE US TRADE ACT. DESPITE HIS BRIEFING ON THE ACT IN WASHINGTON, BRONER STILL MANAGED TO ATTRIBUTE TO IT ARGENTINA'S PROBLEM WITH SHOE EXPORTS IN HIS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON ARRIVAL.

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SUBSEQUENTLY BRONER ASKED ECON COUNSELOR TO MEET WITH HIM AND

IN PRESENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SHOE INDUSTRY, DISCUSSED
SHOE PROBLEM AND PRESSED FOR A "POLITICAL" SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.
RECENTLY THE CGE RELEASED A PRESS STATEMENT ON THE TRADE BILL
WHICH TOUGH ONLY MILDLY CRITICAL BY LATIN AMERICAN REPORTING
STANDARDS ON THIS ISSUE, DID DESCRIBE THE ACT AS A MEASURE
TO PROTECT THE US FROM THE WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC SLUMP, AND ONE
WHICH JEOPARDIZED THE "NEW DIALOGUE" WITH LATIN AMERICA.

4. EMBASSY WISHES TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS ITS
APPRECIATION TO OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND
COMMERCE FOR THIER OUTSTANDING COOPERATION IN GIVING THIS GROUP
SUCH A GOOD RECEPTION. WE ARE NOW ON RECOARD AS HAVING DONE OUR
BEST TO ASSIST ARGENTINE EXPORTERS INCREASE THIER SALES
IN THE US AND WE HAVE GARNERED SOME CREDIT WITH THE CGE WHICH
CAN BE CASHED IN AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME IN THE FUTURE. IT IS
LIKELY THAT BRONERS POSTURE IN LOCAL PRESS ON BOTH TRADE ACT
AND SHOE EXPORT PROBLEM WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR MORE CRITICAL HAD
HE NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES AND BECOME IN-
FORMED ABOUT THEM IN THE US. DECON 2/5/76.
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